

TOWN MANAGER
Ken Deal

TOWN CLERK
Pamela Mills

TOWN ATTORNEY
Tom Brooke



MAYOR
Lee Withers

TOWN COUNCIL
Arthur Heggins
Brandon Linn
Rodney Phillips
Charles Seaford
Steve Stroud

TOWN OF CHINA GROVE

A regular meeting of the China Grove Town Council

Tuesday, April 02, 2019
7:00 p.m.

China Grove Town Hall
China Grove, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Withers called the regular meeting of April 2nd, 2019 to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Withers called roll. All council members were present with the exception of Mr. Phillips and Mr. Linn. There was a quorum.

The meeting started at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Mr. Heggins made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda items:

- a) Approve Minutes from March 5th, 2019 regular meeting
- b) Approve Minutes from the March 12th, 2019 special meeting
- c) Approve Minutes from the March 18th, 2019 special meeting
- d) Adopt Budget Amendment Ordinance
- e) Adopt Ordinance 2019-02 to close Northbound lane for Cruise In

Mr. Stroud made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mayor Withers welcome the students that are a part of the Mayors Council, Robert Gould from China Grove Middle, Kylee Hancock from Bostian Elementary, and Harrison Shepherd from South Rowan High School. He thanked the parents for encouraging their children to be involved in local government.

CITIZEN COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

- I) Set date for Budget Planning Meeting

Mr. Seaford made a motion to hold the Budget Planning meeting on May 7th at 4:00 pm. Mr. Stroud seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

II) Discussion on Downtown Utility Lines

Mayor Withers stated Mr. Welch with Duke Energy presented at the March 12th meeting to relocated the downtown utility lines from Main Street to Franklin Street. He stated the project would cost around \$750,000 and does not include fibrant, cable lines or any other line. He stated he attended the Planning Board meeting last month and everyone was on board with relocating the lines. He stated there are several benefits from doing a project like this such as the overall aesthetic of the downtown area and opening up the sight lines for the second floor businesses and residents. He stated with the reevaluation we could have funds to put towards the cost. He asked Mr. Deal to reach out to Mr. Welch to see if we could give him an answer at the May 7th Town Council meeting.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Mayor Withers stated he attended the School Board meeting on April 1, 2019. He thanked the Council for being respectful of each other in meetings. He stated they have good conversations and handle their differences well and he appreciated it. There were some new actions from the Commissioners to support the school board.

Mayor Withers stated he attended the MPO meeting this month. He stated there were 6 projects approved to get on the STIP. He stated they are all pedestrian projects and were approved. He stated the projects do not require any town funds at this time. He asked staff to look at the projects to determine if any were important enough to allot funds toward.

Mayor Withers stated he has continued conversations with EDC, Duke Energy and the Exit 68 Stakeholders. He stated he was informed on Saturday that Pastor Goodair of Cornerstone Church is going to start the public process of voluntary annexation.

Mayor Withers stated Exit 65 continues to move forward. He stated the developer has taken interest in opportunity zones. He stated Opportunity Zones are defined as all of China Grove and up I-85. He stated the developer is interested in the school rezoning projects and the possibility of school buildings being updated and repurposed.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

I) Police Department

Chief Deal stated Power Street is slowing down a little. He stated a large amount of tickets were issued. He stated traffic crashes are steady as people get used to the roundabout. He stated traffic is still slow in the morning during rush hour around the new traffic pattern. He stated once the road opens up and widens it could alleviate some bottle necking. He stated neighborhoods are looking good, no crime spree at this time.

II) Public Works

Mr. Ketner stated there are a few vehicles down. He stated the 17 year old dump trucks are giving them some trouble. He stated they are able to keep up with service. Mr. Heggins stated there is a pothole at Kirk and Main he believes is caused by the school buses.

III) Administration

a) Finance

Mrs. Bopp stated she is working on revenue. She stated the Revenue projections just arrived on the 1st. She stated she hopes to have the full budget put together by the end of the month. Mr. Deal stated revenue neutral will be .54 cent. He stated he is hopeful with the growth at the new exit and housing developments there will be an increase.

b) Event Coordinator

Ms. Price stated the Easter Egg Hunt and The CruisIn will be on April 20th. She stated there will be a band at the cruise in and the new time is 2pm-6pm. She stated the Veteran's Memorial is on May 17th at 9am and the Block Party is on June 1st from 5pm-8pm. She stated she is working on all of these and Farmers Day.

c) Code Enforcement

Mr. Deal stated he is doing a great job with the amount of time he is here. He stated Mr. Gover helps as well as other staff to help residents with their violations.

IV) Fire Department

Chief Zimmerman stated they responded to 109 calls. He stated the monthly report was late due to the addition of details to the report. He stated the department is currently painting the hydrants. Mr. Withers asked about the integration of Bostian Heights and China Grove. Mr. Deal stated the attorney has all of the paperwork and they hope to have something to present to the board by the end of the year.

V) SRU

Mr. Deal stated SRU help with an issue at South End. Mr. Ketner stated SRU will be putting in a new line for the new Food Lion on near Porky's. He stated the funeral home will be the only one out of service for the duration of the work.

OTHER BUSINESS

I) Community Building Update

Mayor Withers asked what is left to be complete in this fiscal year. Mr. Deal stated painting the doors, pay for the back door and possibly replace the breaker box. Mr. Stroud asked if the leak stopped. Mr. Ketner stated as far as we know it has. Mayor Withers asked what funds are being asked for in the next budget year. Mr. Deal stated we are getting a price for the remaining bathrooms, sidewalk repairs, and fencing.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Stroud made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela L. Mills, CMC
Town Clerk

Lee Withers
Mayor